



U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

National Rail System Preservation, Expansion, and Development Act of 2012

The *National Rail System Preservation, Expansion, and Development Act of 2012* builds on existing policies to further refine and streamline development of a robust intercity passenger rail system and takes steps to address key rail safety concerns.

National and Regional Rail Planning

- Clarifies the Secretary of Transportation's responsibility for developing a National Rail Plan, which will serve as a long-term vision for development and maintenance of our national passenger and freight rail system. Regional Rail Plans and State Rail Plans will be the building blocks for implementation of the National Rail Plan.

Northeast Corridor Coordination and Transparency

- Encourages further development of high-speed rail in the Northeast Corridor by improving Amtrak's and the Northeast Corridor Infrastructure and Operations Commission's responsibilities and authorities to plan, conduct environmental reviews, and coordinate with the States to facilitate;

Rail Safety

- Requires the Secretary of Transportation to conduct rigorous assessment of the railroads' progress toward meeting the December 31, 2015 positive train control implementation deadline. After this assessment, it would also permit the Secretary to extend the deadline for commuter and passenger railroads if the Secretary finds that it would be infeasible for the railroad to meet the deadline for reasons beyond the railroad's control, but in no case longer than December 31, 2018.
- Requires the Secretary and the Federal Communications Commission to develop recommendations to resolve spectrum availability concerns.

Freight Rail

- Makes simple improvements to refine Surface Transportation Board procedures.